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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/648,120

08/25/2003

Stephen P. Farrell

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EXAMINER

VUU: HENRY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2179

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

01/10/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/648,120

Applicant(s)

FARRELL ET AL.

Examiner

Henry Vuu

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/25/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 12 is objected to, as the phrase "a touch" is a typographical error. According to claim 12, it is unclear as to what input device is associated with the phrase "a touch". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hatifield et al. (Patent No. 6,243,076).

As to independent claim 1, Hatifield et al. teaches:

A method of interacting with a monitor (see e.g., col. 4, lines 40 – 55; i.e., the user manipulates a "comet" on a display by using eye gaze), comprising: modifying a portion of an output displayed on a monitor (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the user is able to modify a portion of the display by activating comet 309, 313, and 317, wherein the modification of a portion of a display corresponds to scrolling vertically or horizontally through the readable text or closing the help text display) by tracking an eye gaze (see

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e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., comet 309, 313, and 317 are tracked by the user) and by monitoring an input indicator (see e.g., col. 6, lines 14 – 24; i.e., 17 – 21; i.e., the system monitors the association of comet movement and input device movement) on the monitor that reflects a user's activity (see e.g., col. 6, lines 14 – 24; i.e., input devices, such as a mouse, trackball, or joystick can be used to reflect a user's activity, wherein the system monitors the user's point-of-interest), wherein the output comprises at least part of a target object (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the target object corresponds to the readable text file invoked by the user, wherein parts of the readable document can be scrolled horizontally or vertically through the use of comet 309, 313, and 317); wherein tracking the eye gaze comprises monitoring a user's eye movement (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 21; i.e., the system monitors the eye gaze tracked by the user of comet 309) in a direction of the target object (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 21; i.e., the direction of the target object corresponds to the tracking of a user's horizontal or vertical eye gaze of the readable help document using comet 309, 313, and 317), and further monitoring a trajectory of the input indicator on the monitor (see e.g., col. 6, lines 14 – 21; i.e., the system monitors the movement and direction of the input device towards the comet); and wherein the portion of the output is modified (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the user is able to modify a portion of the display by activating 309, 313, and 317) upon detecting the coincidence of the user's eye movement (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 21; i.e., when comet 309 is tracked by the user's eye gaze, and a portion of the display is scrolled up) and the input indicator trajectory in the direction of

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the target object (see e.g., col. 6, lines 14 – 24; i.e., the modification to a portion of the display is modified with input devices, such as a mouse, trackball, or joystick).

As to dependent claim 4, Hatifield et al. teaches:

The method according to claim 1, further comprising identifying the target object through eye-gaze tracking (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 21; i.e., identifying the target through eye-gaze tracking object corresponds to the tracking of a user's horizontal or vertical eye gaze of the readable help document using comet 309, 313, and 317).

As to independent claim 17, Hatifield et al. teaches:

Independent claim 17 differs from claim 1 only in that claim 17 is an apparatus claim using a software program product (see e.g., col. 5, lines 44 – 55; i.e., memory, and external storage devices and media) containing executable instructions (see e.g., col. 5, lines 49 – 55; i.e., the software may reside on an external storage media) that when executed causes a processor (see e.g., col. 5, lines 49 – 52; i.e., the software may reside in a process space of the central processing unit) to perform the method of claim 1. Thus, claim 17 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, 5 – 16, and 18 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatifield et al. (Patent No. 6,243,076) in view of Tognazzini et al. (Patent No. 5,886,683).

As to dependent claim 2, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 1 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches modifying a portion of the output (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the user is able to modify a portion of the display by activating comet 309, 313, and 317, wherein the modification of a portion of a display corresponds to scrolling vertically or horizontally through the readable text or closing the help text display), but does not specifically mention expanding the portion of the output. Tognazzini et al. teaches expanding the portion of the output (see e.g., Fig. 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 25 – 27; i.e., expanding a portion of the output corresponds to article 1107 and title 1105 expanding in size in comparison to article 1115 and title 1113). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate modifying a portion of the output on a display of Hatifield et al. with expanding a portion of the output of Tognazzini et al. because the size expansion of a portion of the readable document allows a more comfortable size for reading (see e.g., 14, lines 25 – 27).

As to dependent claim 3, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 1 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches modifying a portion of the output (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the user is able to modify a portion of the display by activating comet 309, 313, and 317, wherein the modification of a portion of a display corresponds to scrolling vertically or horizontally through the readable text or closing the

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help text display), but does not specifically mention contracting the portion of the output. Tongnazzini et al. teaches contracting the portion of the output (see e.g., Fig. 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 29 – 38; i.e., contracting a portion of the output corresponds to the size reduction of article 1115 and title 1113). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate modifying a portion of the output on a display of Hatifield et al. with contracting a portion of the output of Tongnazzini et al. because the size reduction of a portion of the readable document allows a more comfortable size for reading the targeted portion (see e.g., 14, lines 25 – 27).

As to dependent claim 5, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 4 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches modifying a portion of the output (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the user is able to modify a portion of the display by activating comet 309, 313, and 317, wherein the modification of a portion of a display corresponds to scrolling vertically or horizontally through the readable text or closing the help text display) that contains the target object (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the target object corresponds to the readable text file invoked by the user, wherein parts of the readable document can be scrolled horizontally or vertically through the use of comet 309, 313, and 317), but does not specifically mention transforming the portion of the output containing the target object to accommodate the expansion and contraction of the target object. Tongnazzini et al. teaches transforming the portion of the output object (see e.g., Fig. 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 22 – 38; i.e., transforming the portion of the output corresponds to Fig. 11, wherein article 1107 and title 1105 are expanded,

while article 1115 and title 1113 are contracted) containing the target (see e.g., Fig. 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 25 – 27; i.e., the target corresponds to article 1107 and title 1105) to accommodate the expansion and contraction of the target object (see e.g., Fig. 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 22 – 38; i.e., article 1115 and title 1113 are transformed to accommodate the expanding of article 1107 and title 1105). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate modifying a portion of the output that contains the target object of Hatifield et al. with transforming the portion of the output containing the target object to accommodate the expansion and contraction of the target object of Tongnazzini et al. because the size reduction of a portion of the readable document allows a more comfortable size for reading the targeted portion (see e.g., 14, lines 25 – 27).

As to dependent claim 6, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 5 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches determining a modification time based on data derived concurrently from the user's eye gaze (see e.g., col. 5, lines 36 – 43; the modification time corresponds to an arbitrary period of time, wherein the time and action of a function is derived from a user's point-of-gaze track and other various conditions).

As to dependent claim 7, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 5 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches determining a motion direction of the input indicator (see e.g., col. 6, lines 14 – 24).

As to dependent claim 8, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 5 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches identifying the target object based

on data derived concurrently from the eye gaze and the direction of movement of the input indicator (see e.g., col. 6, lines 14 – 31; i.e., identifying a target object can be based on data derived from eye gaze, input indicator, combinations and subcombinations of eye gaze and input indicators).

As to dependent claim 9, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 1 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches interactive graphical user interface components (see e.g., col. 9, lines 35 – 38; i.e., the graphical user interface components corresponds to drop down list boxes, check boxes, edit fields, and various buttons). Hatifield et al. does not specifically mention identifying the portion of the output based on boundaries of interactive graphical user interface components. Tongnazzini et al. teaches identifying the portion of the output based on boundaries (see e.g., col. 14, lines 56 – 60; i.e., the text are magnified but have limited boundaries for magnification). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the interactive graphical user interface components of Hatifield et al. with identifying the portion of the output based on boundaries of interactive graphical user interface components of Tongnazzini et al. because the magnification limit is an essential structure to retain comfortable visualization of graphical user interface components (see e.g., col. 14, lines 60 – 65).

As to dependent claim 10, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 9 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches the interactive graphical user interface components comprise any one or more of a button (see e.g., col. 9, lines 37 – 38; i.e., various buttons), a menu (see e.g., col. 9, line 32; i.e., main menu), a scrollbar,

and a hypertext link (see e.g., col. 7, lines 26 – 28; those skilled in the art would appreciate that graphical user interface components to control web browsers include to hypertext links and scroll bars).

As to dependent claim 11, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 10 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches the interactive graphical user interface components to permit interactivity (see e.g., Fig. 3A – 3C and col. 7, lines 26 – 28; the graphical user interface components can be used to interact with web browsers and window display 301), but does not specifically mention expanding the interactive graphical user interface components. Tongnazzini et al. teaches expanding interactive graphical user interface components (see e.g., Fig. 11 – 12 and col. 14, lines 25 – 27; i.e., the graphical interface component corresponds to expanding article 1107 and title 1105 in comparison to the size of article 1115 and title 1113). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the interactive graphical user interface components to permit interactivity of Hatifield et al. with expanding the interactive graphical user interface components of Tongnazzini et al. because expansion of graphical user interface components enable comfortable visualization of the components (see e.g., col. 14, lines 60 – 65)

As to dependent claim 12, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 5 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches the input indicator (see e.g., col. 17, lines 43 – 49; i.e., the input indicator corresponds to a cursor associated with an input device) is inputted by an input device that comprises any one or more of a mouse (see e.g., col. 17, lines 43 – 44; i.e., conventional mice, remote mice), a touch screen (see

e.g., col. 2, line 5; i.e., touch screen), a tablet computer (see e.g., col. 2, lines 5 – 6), a personal digital assistant (see e.g., col. 17, line 49; i.e., microprocessor-based system or device), a stylus (see e.g., col. 17, lines 44; i.e., light pens), and a motion sensor (see e.g., Fig. 1 and col. 9, line 29; i.e., eye tracker controller 129).

As to dependent claim 13, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 5 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches modifying a portion of the output (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the user is able to modify a portion of the display by activating comet 309, 313, and 317, wherein the modification of a portion of a display corresponds to scrolling vertically or horizontally through the readable text or closing the help text display) that contains the target object (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the target object corresponds to the readable text file invoked by the user, wherein parts of the readable document can be scrolled horizontally or vertically through the use of comet 309, 313, and 317). Hatifield et al. does not specifically mention transforming the portion of the output comprises hiding an area of the monitor that is covered by an increase in size of the target object to accommodate a change in appearance of the target object. Tongnazzini et al. teaches transforming the portion of the output (see e.g., Fig. 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 22 – 38; i.e., transforming the portion of the output corresponds to Fig. 11, wherein article 1107 and title 1105 are expanded, while article 1115 and title 1113 are contracted) comprises hiding an area of the monitor that is covered by an increase in size of the target object (see e.g., Fig 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 35 – 38; i.e., the articles associated with title 1109 and 1117 have been shifted off screen to accommodate the expansion of article 1107 and title 1105, wherein article

1107 and title 1105 are the target objects) to accommodate a change in appearance of the target object (see e.g., Fig 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 35 – 38). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate modifying a portion of the output that contains the target object of Hatifield et al. with transforming the portion of the output, which comprises hiding an area of the monitor that is covered by an increase in size of the target object to accommodate a change in appearance of the target object of Tongnazzini et al. because the size increase of the target allows a more comfortable size for reading (see e.g., 14, lines 25 – 27).

As to dependent claim 14, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 5 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches modifying a portion of the output (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the user is able to modify a portion of the display by activating comet 309, 313, and 317, wherein the modification of a portion of a display corresponds to scrolling vertically or horizontally through the readable text or closing the help text display) that contains the target object (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the target object corresponds to the readable text file invoked by the user, wherein parts of the readable document can be scrolled horizontally or vertically through the use of comet 309, 313, and 317). Hatifield et al. does not specifically mention transforming the portion of the output comprises moving one or more objects on the monitor toward one or more edges of the monitor to accommodate a change in appearance of the target object. Tongnazzini et al. teaches transforming the portion of the output (see e.g., Fig. 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 22 – 38; i.e., transforming the portion of the output

corresponds to Fig. 11, wherein article 1107 and title 1105 are expanded, while article 1115 and title 1113 are contracted) comprises moving one or more objects on the monitor toward one or more edges of the monitor (see e.g., Fig. 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 22 – 38; i.e., article 1107 and title 1105 have been expanded, wherein article 1115 and title 1109, 1113, and 1117 have been moved to the edge of the monitor to accommodate the expansion of article 1107 and title 1105) to accommodate a change in appearance of the target object (see e.g., Fig 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 35 – 38). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate modifying a portion of the output that contains the target object of Hatifield et al. with transforming the portion of the output, which comprises moving one or more objects on the monitor toward one or more edges of the monitor to accommodate a change in appearance of the target object of Tongnazzini et al. because the size increase of the target allows a more comfortable size for reading (see e.g., 14, lines 25 – 27).

As to dependent claim 15, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 5 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches modifying a portion of the output (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the user is able to modify a portion of the display by activating comet 309, 313, and 317, wherein the modification of a portion of a display corresponds to scrolling vertically or horizontally through the readable text or closing the help text display) that contains the target object (see e.g., col. 10, lines 18 – 29; i.e., the target object corresponds to the readable text file invoked by the user, wherein parts of the readable document can be scrolled horizontally or vertically through the use of

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comet 309, 313, and 317). Hatifield et al. does not specifically mention transforming the portion of the output comprises reducing a size of one or more objects located adjacent the target object to accommodate a change in appearance of the target object while maintaining an original appearance of a remaining portion of the output. Tongnazzini et al. teaches transforming the portion of the output (see e.g., Fig. 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 22 – 38; i.e., transforming the portion of the output corresponds to Fig. 11, wherein article 1107 and title 1105 are expanded, while article 1115 and title 1113 are contracted) comprises reducing a size of one or more objects located adjacent the target object (see e.g., Fig. 10 – 11; i.e., article 1107 and title 1105 are expanded while adjacent article 1115 and title 1113 are reduced in size) to accommodate a change in appearance of the target (see e.g., Fig 10 – 11 and col. 14, lines 22 – 38) while maintaining an original appearance of a remaining portion of the output (see e.g., Fig. 10 – 11; i.e., title 1109 and 1117 maintain their original appearance in comparison to article 1107, 1115 and title 1105, 1113). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate modifying a portion of the output that contains the target object of Hatifield et al. with transforming the portion of the output, which comprises reducing a size of one or more objects located adjacent the target object to accommodate a change in appearance of the target object while maintaining an original appearance of a remaining portion of the output of Tongnazzini et al. because the size increase of the target allows a more comfortable size for reading (see e.g., 14, lines 25 – 27).

As to dependent claim 16, this claim is analyzed with respect to claim 12 as previously discussed above. Hatifield et al. teaches the input indicator (see e.g., col. 17, lines 43 – 49) is inputted by an input device (see e.g., Fig. 1 and col. 8, lines 1 - 52), does not specifically mention restoring the target object and the monitor to an original appearance when any one of the eye-gaze or the input device indicates that the target object has been deselected. Tongnazzini et al. teaches restoring the target object and the monitor to an original appearance (see e.g., col. 15, lines 3 – 5; i.e., when the user's gaze leaves window 1201, the monitor and text in window 1201 is reduced to its original appearance) when any one of the eye-gaze (see e.g., col. 15, lines 3 – 5) or the input device indicates that the target object has been deselected (see e.g., col. 15, lines 5 – 7; i.e., the pointing device can be used to invoke a command function to return the appearance of the text and monitor). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the input indicator and input device of Hatifield et al. with the restoring of the target object and the monitor to an original appearance when any one of the eye-gaze or the input device indicates that the target object has been deselected of Tongnazzini et al. because the slowly expanding and slowly contracting of a target object reduces user distraction (see e.g., col. 15, lines 48 – 54).

As to dependent claim 18, claim 18 differs from claim 2 only in that claim 18 is an apparatus claim using a software program product (see e.g., col. 5, lines 44 – 55; i.e., memory, and external storage devices and media) containing executable instructions (see e.g., col. 5, lines 49 – 55; i.e., the software may reside on an external storage

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media) that when executed causes a processor (see e.g., col. 5, lines 49 – 52; i.e., the software may reside in a process space of the central processing unit) to perform the method of claim 2. Thus, claim 18 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 2 above.

As to dependent claim 19, claim 19 differs from claim 3 only in that claim 19 is an apparatus claim using a software program product (see e.g., col. 5, lines 44 – 55; i.e., memory, and external storage devices and media) containing executable instructions (see e.g., col. 5, lines 49 – 55; i.e., the software may reside on an external storage media) that when executed causes a processor (see e.g., col. 5, lines 49 – 52; i.e., the software may reside in a process space of the central processing unit) to perform the method of claim 3. Thus, claim 19 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 3 above.

As to independent claim 20, claim 20 incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claim 17 above, and are respectfully rejected along the same rationale.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Prior art Patent No. 6,594,687 can be made applicable and pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Prior art disclosed by Yap et al. teaches concurrently monitoring a user's eye gaze with association to following a mouse pointer for a more

accurate calibration, wherein other advantages include zooming in and zooming out of graphical objects.

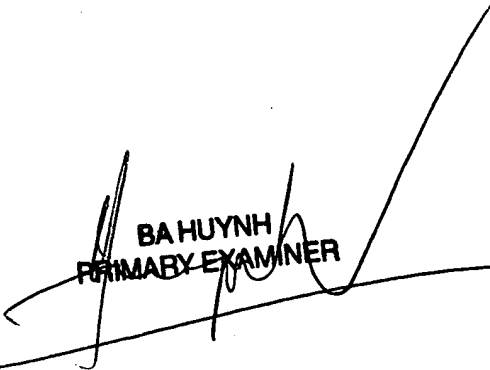
Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henry Vuu whose telephone number is (571) 270-1048. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Henry Vuu
1/4/2007



BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER